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REMARKS**I. INTRODUCTION**

Claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended. Claims 9-11 have been added. Thus, claims 1-11 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. (See 03/22/06 Office Action, p. 2, ¶ 2). Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 has been amended to contain subject matter that is described in the specification. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection to claim 1 should be withdrawn. As claims 2-6 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is hereby submitted that the rejections of claims 2-6 should also be withdrawn.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,687,741 to Ramaley et al. ("Ramaley") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,903,723 to Beck et al. ("Beck"). (See 03/22/06 Office Action, p. 2, ¶ 3).

Amended claim 1 recites, a "method of controlling communication of content information from a sender to a receiver via a data network, the method comprising verifying if

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the content information is available from at least one source other than the sender, *contacting a search engine if the content information is available from the at least one source, wherein the search engine determines a location within a data network of the at least one source of the content information and returns an updateable index listing sources of a copy of the content information*, and substituting for the content information a pointer to the location of the at least one source based on the updateable index of sources returned by the search engine.” (Emphasis added).

Ramaley relates to an application program for automatically determining whether to send a document from a sender to a recipient as a link, as an attachment or as both a link and an attachment. (See Ramaley, col. 1, lines 6-10). Specifically, Ramaley describes a method for sending a file opened in a desktop application program from a sender to a recipient by determining whether the file has been saved to a shared disk location. (See Id., col. 5, lines 51-64). If the file has been saved to a shared disk location, the file is sent as an attachment on the condition that the sender indicates a preference for sending shared files. (See Id., col. 6, lines 4-20). If the preference of the sender is not to send a shared file as an attachment, then the shared file is sent as a link. (See Id.).

Beck relates to a method and apparatus for transmitting e-mail attachments from a sender of a network to at least one recipient of the network. (See Beck, Abstract). Specifically, an attachment reference is transmitting from the sender to the recipient, wherein the attachment reference is generated comprising the network address of the attachment. (See Id.). The attachment reference comprises a pointer that points to the actual location of the attachment. (See Id., col. 5, lines 17-19). In general, the location of the attachment is typically a storage medium relatively local to the sending user. (See Id., col. 5, lines 19-23). Thus the attachment is

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typically stored locally to avoid transmitting the attachment across the network links between the sender and the recipient. (See Id., col. 5, lines 24-27).

In contrast to both Ramaley and Beck, the present invention describes the use of a search engine for determining the availability and the location within a data network of the source of the content information within an email transmission. (See Specification, p. 4, ¶ 013). Furthermore, the present invention includes an updateable index that lists the available source from the search engine results that have a copy of the content information the user has attached to the email transmission. (See Id., p. ¶ 014). The index is updateable, wherein the search engine may add to the index a newly found location of a source for content information previously unavailable. (See Id., p. ¶ 011). Thus, the present invention may instruct a search engine in order to determine the location of the content information. The search engine includes an updateable index that provides the latest source listing for content information on a data network. It is respectfully submitted that disclosure of Ramaley and the disclosure of Beck fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, each of the claim limitations recited in claims 1. Specifically, neither Ramaley nor Beck teach or suggest “*contacting a search engine if the content information is available from the at least one source, wherein the search engine determines a location within a data network of the at least one source of the content information and returns an updateable index listing sources of a copy of the content information,*” as recited in claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the reasons stated above, claim 1 of the present application is not obvious over Ramaley in view of Beck, and request that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn. As claim 2 depends from, and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 1, it is hereby submitted that claim 2 is also allowable.

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The Examiner rejected claim 7 for the same reasons as the rejection of claim 1 over Ramaley in view of Beck. (See 08/03/04 Office Action, p. 2, ¶ 3). Amended claim 7 recites, "*contacting a search engine if the attachment is available from the at least one source, wherein the search engine determines a location within a data network of the at least one source of the attachment and returns an updateable index listing sources of a copy of the attachment, and substituting for the attachment a pointer to the location of the at least one source based on the updateable index of sources returned by the search engine.*" (Emphasis added). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claim 8 for the same reasons as the rejection of claim 1 over Ramaley in view of Beck. (See 08/03/04 Office Action, p. 2, ¶ 3). Amended claim 8 recites, "*contacting a search engine if the file is available from the at least one source, wherein the search engine determines a location within a data network of the at least one source of the file and returns an updateable index listing sources of a copy of the file, and substituting for the file a pointer to the location of the at least one source based on the updateable index of sources returned by the search engine.*" (Emphasis added). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ramaley in view of Beck and in further view of Berghel, Hal, "Digital Village," 1997, 27 July 2004 ("Berghel"). (See 03/22/06 Office Action, p. 3, ¶ 4). As discussed above, neither Ramaley nor Beck, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that Berghel is insufficient to cure the above-stated deficiencies of Ramaley and Beck. Because claim 3 depends from, and, therefore includes all the limitations of

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claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is allowable for the reasons stated above with reference to claim 1.

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ramaley in view of Beck and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,656 to Zabetian ("Zabetian"). (See 03/22/06 Office Action, p. 4, ¶ 5). As discussed above, neither Ramaley nor Beck, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that Zabetian is insufficient to cure the above-stated deficiencies of Ramaley and Beck. Because claims 4-6 depend from, and, therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6 are allowable for the reasons stated above with reference to claim 1.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

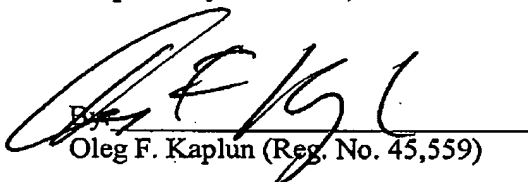
Please direct all future correspondence related to this application to:

Yan Glickberg, Esq.

Phillips Intellectual Property & Standards
345 Scarborough Road
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
Tel.: 914-333-9618
Fax: 914-332-0615

Respectfully submitted,

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Oleg F. Kaplun (Reg. No. 45,559)

Fay Kaplun & Marcin, LLP
150 Broadway, Suite 702
New York, NY 10038
Phone: (212) 619-6000
Fax: (212) 619-0276